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CASEY SAID TO ADMIT NEGLIGENCE ON NICARAGUAN REBEL MANUAL

By CAROL GIACOMO

WASHINGTON, Dec 5; REUTER - CIA Director William Casey has admitted negligence in his agency's publication of a manual for Nicaraguan rebels that advocated assassination and kidnapping, Rep. Wyche Fowler said today.

Fowler also told reporters the House Intelligence Committee felt that by producing the primer the Central Intelligence Agency had violated a law prohibiting "advice or support to those who would seek to overthrow the government of Nicaragua."

But he said neither he nor the panel believed the CIA intentionally violated an executive order banning U.S.-sponsored assassinations.

Fowler said that at a meeting with the Intelligence Committee today, Casey promised to make specific changes in "the command and control structure of the agency, both in Washington and in the field, to try to prevent anything as embarrassing as this has been to the United States and to the agency from happening."

"Mr. Casey himself admitted to negligence in the management and control of this operation and presented specific recommendations as to how this problem can be addressed in the future," the Georgia Democrat added.

Despite this, Fowler said he did not believe Casey should resign.

"What this points up over and over again is the damage to the Central Intelligence Agency and very fine employees of that agency who are being asked to conduct policy in a covert manner in the conduct of this war," he said.

Fowler said this was "more and more leading to the politicalization of our CIA."

He said the agency's proper function was collection of intelligence and it should not be involved in the conduct of foreign policy.

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